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648.40349VX3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: M. EZUMI, et al.

Application No.: 10/084,417

Filed: February 28, 2002

For: FRICTION STIR WELDING METHOD AND METHOD
FOR MANUFACTURING A CAR BODY

Art Unit: 1725

Examiner: J. J. Johnson

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.97 AND § 1.98**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 18, 2004

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find a copy of an European Search Report, and copies of documents cited therein, in connection with an European patent application corresponding to a prior application of the above-identified application being relied upon under 35 USC §120 in the above-identified application, that is, Application No. 09/915,354, filed July 27, 2001 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,530,513). Also enclosed is a Form, substantially equivalent to Form PTO-1449, listing the enclosed documents.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted prior to a first Office Action on the merits subsequent to the filing of a Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal, in the above-identified application. Accordingly, requirements of 37 CFR § 1.97(b) are clearly satisfied.

To the extent that the enclosed documents are not in English, it is respectfully submitted that requirements of 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3) are satisfied by the enclosed European Search Report, and/or by English Abstracts enclosed with each of the respective enclosed non-English documents.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all applicable requirements of 37 CFR § 1.97 and § 1.98 have been satisfied, in connection with each of the documents listed on the enclosed Form. Accordingly, consideration of the listed documents, upon further examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 648.40349VX3) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

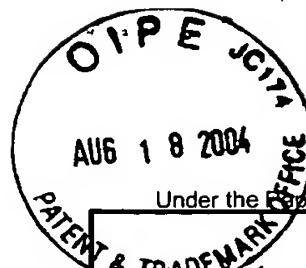
Respectfully submitted,

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1 Attorney Docket Number 648.40349VX3

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/084,417
Filing Date	2/28/2002
First Named Inventor	M. Ezumi, et al.
Art Unit	1725
Examiner Name	J. Johnson

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials'	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5,971,252	10/26/1999	Rosen, et al.	
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials'	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	Abstract
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP 11-342481	12/14/1999	Nippon Light Metal Co., Ltd.		X
		JP 2000-334576	12/15/2000	Kawasaki Heavy Ind. Ltd.		X
		JP 2000-233285	8/29/2000	Hitachi Kasado Kikai Co., Ltd.		X
		JP 2001-47261	2/20/2001	Sumitomo Light Metal Ind. Ltd.		X
		JP 11-179568	7/6/1999	Nippon Light Metal Co., Ltd.		X
		EP 0 992 314	4/12/2000	Hitachi, Ltd.		
		EP 0 985 483	3/15/2000	Hitachi, Ltd.		
		EP 1 055 478	11/29/2000	Hitachi, Ltd.		
		JP 2000-202654	7/25/2000	Hitachi, Ltd.		X

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		Communication and European Search Report mailed March 29, 2004, for No. EP 01 30 6355	
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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